

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1 1. A method for designing or deploying a communications network,
2 comprising the steps of:
3 providing a computerized model which represents a physical
4 environment in which a communications network is or will be installed,
5 said computerized model providing a display of at least a portion of said
6 physical environment;
7 identifying a plurality of system components which may be used in
8 said physical environment;
9 identifying at least one component kit composed of at least two
10 system components of said plurality of system components;
11 selecting either specific components from said plurality of system
12 components or said at least one component kit for use in said computerized
13 model; and
14 representing said selected specific components or said at least two
15 system components of said at least one component kit in said display as
16 part of a communications network.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said second identifying step includes
2 the steps of
3 selecting said at least two system components from said plurality of
4 system components identified in said first identifying step; and
5 presenting said selected at least two system components as said at
6 least one component kit in said display.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein more than one component kit is
2 presented in said presenting step.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein more than two system components are
2 in said at least one component kit.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of generating a bill
2 of materials containing cost information for said selected specific
3 components or said at least two system components of said at least one
4 component kit utilized in said communications network.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said display is three dimensional.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said system components have
2 performance attributes associated with them, and further comprising the
3 step of running prediction models using the computerized model and said
4 performance attributes to predict performance characteristics of said
5 communications network.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of measuring
2 performance data in said physical environment and presenting the
3 measured performance data in said display.
- 1 9. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of measuring
2 performance data in said physical environment and comparing results from
3 said prediction models to said measured performance data.
- 1 10. An apparatus for designing and deploying a communications network,
2 comprising:
3 a means for providing

4 (I) a computerized model which represents a physical environment
 5 in which a communications network is or will be installed, said
 6 computerized model providing a display of at least a portion of said
 7 physical environment, and

8 (II) performance attributes for a plurality of system components
 9 which may be used in said physical environment;

10 means for identifying a plurality of system components which may
 11 be used in said physical environment;

12 means for identifying at least one component kit composed of at
 13 least two system components of said plurality of system components;

14 means for selecting either specific components from said plurality
 15 of system components or said at least one component kit for use in said
 16 computerized model; and

17 means for representing said selected specific components or said at
 18 least two system components of said at least one component kit in said
 19 display as part of a communications network.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a means for generating a
 2 bill of materials containing cost information for said selected specific
 3 components utilized in said communications network.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said display is three dimensional.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising

2 means for associating performance attributes with said system
 3 components; and

4 means for running prediction models using the computerized model
 5 and said performance attributes to predict performance characteristics of
 6 said communications network.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a means for comparing
2 measured performance data with results from said prediction models.

Year	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
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